

PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT AND EDUCATION OF  
CONGRESSIONAL PAGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 28 (legislative day, JULY 25), 1983.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MATHIAS, from the Committee on Rules and Administration,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3034]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 3034) to provide for appointment and education of congressional pages, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Congress has employed young people to serve as messengers and Chamber attendants since the first meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the city of Washington. The first appointment by the House occurred in 1801 during the second session of the Sixth Congress and, following British parliamentary practice, the messenger was called a page. The Senate's first page appointment occurred 30 years later when Senators Clay and Webster named 9-year-old Grafton Hanson, a direct descendant of John Hanson of Maryland, President of the Continental Congress, as first page of the Senate. Young Grafton served as the Senate page for 10 years. Since that time, Senate pages have grown in number from 1 to 30; their ages have been set by law at 14 through 17; and, with the appointments of Paulette Desell by Senator Javits and Ellen McConnell by Senator Percy, their ranks now include both boys and girls.

The Senate page program, like its counterpart in the House of Representatives, provides a unique opportunity for high school age students to observe, as staff participants, the workings of Congress. This the pages do by performing official messenger duties, by preparing the Senate Chamber with the documents and Congressional

Records necessary for floor activities, and by running errands for Senators and elected officials of the Senate. For 35 years, a traditional educational program has been provided for pages by the District of Columbia Board of Education under contract to the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate.

Residential facilities are now provided for House and Senate pages in dormitory facilities provided by the House Page Board on two renovated floors of House office building annex No. 1. Each page is expected to use his or her \$9,000 annual salary for dormitory, meals, and other living expenses in Washington. Supervision of the pages is distributed among the elected officers of the Senate, the Senate, appointing the page, and the Capitol Page School. Continuing problems with the page program have been identified in the following areas:

- (1) Range of age—14 to 17 or 18 for Senate pages; 16 to 18 or 19 for House pages; and the number of years or length of page service, which widely varies at present from 1 or 2 months to several years;
- (2) The type and quality of the educational program provided to the pages by the Capitol Page School; and
- (3) Inadequate space and facilities for the Capitol Page School in the Library of Congress.

These and other problem areas have been explored in depth by the General Accounting Office, the Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education of the House Committee on Education and Labor, and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Senator Mathias. In addition, the Congressional Research Service has prepared a historical report on the page system from its origins during the Sixth Congress to the present. Recommendations from these studies included:

Appoint outstanding high school age students to a junior year in the Capitol Page School. This high school academic year appointment would be for a minimum of one semester;

Contract with the District of Columbia Board of Education for an innovative academic program for the pages. In addition to traditional academic courses, this program would emphasize the Congress and the legislative process, the educational and cultural resources of Washington, and the unique information systems and services on Capitol Hill; and

Direct the Library of Congress to provide adequate facilities, library resources, and information systems and services for a new Capitol Page School program.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION ON H.R. 3034

H.R. 3034, a House-passed measure providing for the appointment and education of high school juniors as congressional pages, was sponsored by Congressmen Minish, Fazio, and Myers, who are members of the House Page Board. This bill was introduced and passed by voice vote in the House of Representatives on May 18, 1983. The measure provides for the following provisions which would rectify existing problems with the page program:

(a) A requirement that House and Senate pages be in their 11th grade of high school and that they serve for one or two full semesters of their high school junior year;

(b) A repeal of the provision allowing for minor congressional employees who are not congressional pages the privilege of attending the Congressional Page School;

(c) The flexibility for the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate to contract or otherwise provide for the pages' educational program with the District of Columbia or anyone else;

(d) A repeal of prior provisions for age and education of pages which would conflict with H.R. 3034; and

(e) The elimination of Supreme Court pages from statutes dealing with Congressional pages (the Supreme Court no longer has high school students serving as pages and thus has no need for inclusion in the program).

The Rules Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3034 on June 14, 1983. In a markup session on July 22, 1983, the committee adopted one of several proposed amendments offered for committee consideration. This amendment provides for a joint Senate/House Page Board.

#### CONGRESSIONAL PAGE BOARD

SEC. 5. (a) There is hereby established a board to be known as the Congressional Page Board to insure that the page program is conducted in a manner that is consistent with the efficient functioning of the Congress and the welfare of congressional pages.

(b) The Page Board shall consist of—

(1) Two Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker and one Member of the House of Representatives appointed by the minority leader;

(2) Two Senators appointed by the majority leader and one Senator appointed by the minority leader; and

(3) The Architect of the Capitol.

(c) As used in this section, the term "Member of the House of Representatives" means a Representative in, and a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

(d) The Page Board shall have authority to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(e) House Resolution 611, 97th Congress, enacted into permanent law by section 127 of the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations and providing for productive employment for the fiscal year 1983, and for other purposes," approved December 21, 1982 (2 U.S.C. 88b-2 through 88b-4) is repealed.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill as reported are shown as follows (existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman; existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is shown in *italic*):

## SENATE AND HOUSE PAGES

(2 U.S.C. 88a)

SEC. 243. (a) The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, acting jointly, [are authorized and directed to enter into an arrangement with the Board of Education of the District of Columbia for the education of Congressional pages and pages of the Supreme Court in the public school system of the District. Such arrangement shall include provision for reimbursement to the District of Columbia for any additional expenses incurred by the public school system of the District in carrying out such arrangement.] *shall furnish, by contract or otherwise, educational services and related items for pages of the House of Representatives and pages of the Senate.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## § 88b-1. [Congressional pages—Appointment conditions

[(a) A person shall not be appointed as a page of the Senate or House of Representatives—

[(1) unless he agrees that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances preventing his service as a page after his appointment, he will continue to serve as a page for a period of not less than two months, and

[(2) until complete information in writing is transmitted to his parent or parents, his legal guardian, or other appropriate person or persons acting as his parent or parents, with respect to the nature of the work of pages, their pay, their working conditions (including hours and scheduling of work), and the housing accommodations available to pages.

[(b) A person shall not serve as a page—

[(1) of the Senate before he has attained the age of fourteen years; or

[(2) of the House of Representatives before he has attained the age of sixteen years; or

(except in the case of a chief page, telephone page, or riding page) during any session of the Congress which begins after he has attained the age of eighteen years.

[(c) Repealed.

[(d) Repealed.]

(Oct. 26, 1970, Pub. L. 91-510, § 491, 84 Stat. 1198; Oct. 1, 1981, Pub. L. 97-51, § 123, 95 Stat. 965.)

## CONGRESSIONAL PAGES

SEC. 491. (a) *Except as provided in subsection (c), a page of the House of Representatives—*

(1) *shall be in the eleventh grade;*

(2) *shall serve for a full academic year; and*

(3) *shall not have served as a summer page.*

(b) *Except as provided in subsection (c), a page of the Senate—*

(1) *shall be in the eleventh grade; and*

(2) *shall serve for one full semester or two full semesters.*

(c) (1) *Notwithstanding subsection (a) (2) and subsection (b) (2), an unforeseen vacancy during an academic year may be filled, but no appointment to fill such a vacancy shall be for a period of less than two months.*

(2) *An individual who has completed the tenth grade and has not begun the twelfth grade may serve as a summer page of the House of Representatives. An individual who has served as a congressional page at any time during each of any two semesters shall not be eligible to serve under this paragraph.*

(d) *As used in this section the term—*

(1) *“academic year” means a regular school year, consisting of two semesters;*

(2) *“congressional page” means a page of the House of Representatives or the Senate, but such term does not include a full time, permanent employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate with supervisory responsibility for pages; and*

(3) *“summer page” means a page of the House of Representatives serving other than during an academic year for a period determined by the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 88b. Repealed. [Same; other minors who are congressional employees**

**[The facilities provided for the education of Congressional and Supreme Court pages shall be available from and after January 2, 1947, also for the education of such other minors who are congressional employees as may be certified by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives to receive such education. (Mar. 22, 1947, ch. 20, § 101, 61 Stat. 16.)]**

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 184a. John W. McCormack Residential Page School—Construction authorization for dormitory and classroom facilities complex**

(a) There is hereby authorized to be constructed, on a site jointly approved by the Senate Office Building Commission and the House Office Building Commission, in accordance with plans which shall be prepared by or under the direction of the Architect of the Capitol and which shall be submitted to and jointly approved by the Senate Office Building Commission and the House Office Building Commission, a fireproof building containing dormitory and classroom facilities, including necessary furnishings and equipment, for pages of the Senate, [the House of Representatives, and the Supreme Court of the United States.] *and the House of Representatives.*

(b) The Architect of the Capitol, under the joint direction and supervision of the Senate Office Building Commission and the House Office Building Commission, is authorized to acquire on behalf of the United States, by purchase, condemnation, transfer, or otherwise, such publicly or privately owned real property in the District of Columbia (including all alleys, and parts of alleys, and streets within the curblines surrounding such real property) located in the vicinity of the United States Capitol Grounds, as may be approved jointly by the Senate Office Building Commission and the House Office Building

Commission, for the purpose of constructing on such real property, in accordance with this section, a suitable dormitory and classroom facilities complex for pages of the Senate, [the House of Representatives, and the Supreme Court of the United States.] *and the House of Representatives.*

PUBLIC LAW 91-510—OCTOBER 26, 1970

(i) Nothing in the part shall affect the operation of section 243 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 88a). [or the proviso under the heading "Education of Senate and House Pages" in title I of the Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1947 (2 U.S.C. 88b), relating to educational facilities of pages and other minors who are congressional employees.]

**§ 88b. Education of Congressional and Supreme Court pages; appropriations; attendance at private or parochial schools**

[(b) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the District of Columbia in accordance with the arrangement referred to in subsection (a) of this section.]

[(c)] (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of [subsections (a) and (b)] *subsection (a)* of this section, said page or pages may elect to attend a private or parochial school of their own choice: *Provided, however,* That such private or parochial school shall be reimbursed by the Senate and House of Representatives only in the same amount as would be paid if the page or pages were attending [a public school under the provisions of subsections (a) and (b)] *school under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.* (Aug. 2, 1946, ch. 753, § 243, 60 Stat. 839.)

2 U.S.C. 88

**§ 88. Repealed. [Limit of age of pages in House of Representatives**

No person shall be appointed or employed as a page in the service of the House of Representatives who is under twelve years or more than eighteen years of age; but this provisions shall not apply to chief pages, riding pages, and telephone pages. (Mar. 3, 1901, c. 830, § 1, 31 Stat. 968.)]

PART 9—SENATE AND HOUSE PAGES

491 | *Sec. 491. Congressional pages* [Senate and House | 2 | 88b-1 | 283  
pages -----]

**§ 88b-2. *Repealed.* [House of Representatives Page Board; establishment and purpose]**

[Until otherwise provided by law, there is hereby established a board to be known as the House of Representatives Page Board to ensure that the page program is conducted in a manner that is consistent with the efficient functioning of the House and the welfare of the pages.

[Pub. L. 97-377, Title I, § 127, Dec. 21, 1982, 96 Stat. 1914.]

**Codification.** Section is based upon which was enacted into permanent law section 1 of House Resolution No. 611, by Pub.L. 97-377. Ninety-seventh Congress, Nov. 30, 1982,

**§ 88b-3. *Repealed.* [Membership of House of Representatives Page Board]**

**[APPOINTED AND DESIGNATED MEMBERS]**

**[(a) The Page Board shall consist of—**

**[(1) two Members of the House appointed by the Speaker and one Member of the House appointed by the minority leader;**

**[(2) the Clerk, Doorkeeper, and Sergeant at Arms of the House; and**

**[(3) the Architect of the Capitol.**

**[DEFINITION]**

**[(b) As used in sections 88b-2 to 88b-4 of this title, the term “Member of the House” means a Representative in, and a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.**

**[Pub.L. 97-377, Title I, § 127, Dec. 21, 1982, 96 Stat. 1914.]**

**Codification.** Section is based upon which was enacted into permanent law section 2 of House Resolution No. 611, by Pub.L. 97-377. Ninety-seventh Congress, Nov. 30, 1982,

**§ 88b-4. *Repealed.* [Regulations of House of Representatives Page Board]**

**[The Page Board shall have authority to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out sections 88b-2 to 88b-4 of this title.**

**[Pub.L. 97-377, Title I, § 127, Dec. 21, 1982, 96 Stat. 1914.]**

**Codification.** Section is based upon which was enacted into permanent law section 3 of House Resolution No. 611, by Pub.L. 97-377. Ninety-seventh Congress, Nov. 30, 1982,